

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /063 W

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R 160959Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7181

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10445

FOLLOWING TEL SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS JULY 15,  
FROM BOMBAY, REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1827

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PIN IN

SUBJ: ANTI-GOVERNMENT PRESS BANNED

1. THE GOM HAS BANNED THREE AND THE GOG HAS BANNED TWO PUBLICATIONS  
OF "ANTI-GOVERNMENT" WEEKLIES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1. IN MAHARASHTRA  
PRO-SOCIALIST PARTY JANATA (ENGLISH) AND SADHNA (MARATHI) AND  
NON-PARTISAN OPINION (ENGLISH) AND IN GUJARAT, THE PRO-JANA SANGH  
SADHANA AND PRO-SARVODAYA BHUMI PUTRA, BOTH GUJARATI, HAVE CLOSED  
AS A RESULT OF THE BAN. CHINUBHAI VAIDYA, EDITOR OF BHUMI PUTRA  
WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED UNDER MISA.

COMMENT:

2. SINCE THE DECLARATION OF THE EMERGENCY ALL FIVE WEEKLIES HAVE  
BEEN DEMANDING THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND WERE BITTERLY  
CRITICAL OF MRS GANDHI'S POLICIES. EARLIER STATE GOVERNMENTS'  
EFFORTS TO CLOSE THESE PUBLICATIONS WERE BLOCKED BY JUDICIAL  
INTERVENTION. AT LEAST THREE OF THE WEEKLIES CURRENTLY HAVE  
PENDING CASES RELATED TO PREVIOUS BAN ATTEMPTS. LEGALLY, AS WE  
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UNDERSTAND IT, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT ACT FURTHER SINCE

THE MATTERS WERE SUB JUDICE. NEVERTHELESS, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS, WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GOI, AGAIN PROHIBITED PUBLICATION OF THESE WEEKLIES.

3. IN VIEW OF RECENT TRANSFERS OF JUDGES, OPPOSITION SOURCES DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY NEW JUDICIAL INTERVENTION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE WEEKLIES RESUME PUBLICATION. THESE SOURCES STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THREE JUDGES OF THE GUJARAT HIGH COURT, INCLUDING THE CHIEF JUSTICE, WERE RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FOR THEIR VERDICT ENABLING BHUMI PUTRA CONTINUE ITS PUBLICATION IN SPITE OF GOG'S ATTEMPTS TO BAN IT. THEY DOUBT THAT THE LESSON WILL BE LOST ON THEIR PEERS.

4. THE BANNING OF THESE PUBLICATIONS LEFT THE ORGANIZED POLITICAL OPPOSITION WITHOUT ANY OVERT PRESS OPERATION.

5. WE WILL PARTICULARLY MISS OPINION, MR GORWALA'S PERSONAL AND ELOGUENTLY INCISIVE APPEAL TO THE REASON, AND FOR THE RIGHTS, OF MAN.

COURTNEY UNQUOTE SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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